

ROBERT H. MORRIS—LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE OF.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 242.]

MARCH 2, 1860.

Mr. WOODRUFF, from the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads,
made the following

REPORT.

*The Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, to whom was referred
the petition of Mrs. A. E. Morris, executrix of R. H. Morris, late of
the city of New York, report:*

That R. H. Morris was postmaster of New York when the act of 3d March, 1845, in relation to postages, took effect, viz: July 1, 1845, and continued to act in that capacity until 1849; that in consequence of the act of March, 1845, the commission fund for the first fiscal year thereafter, appropriated to the local expenses of the office, owing to the great increase of the business of said office, resulting from the reduction of postage as provided for by said act, became wholly insufficient for said purpose. That he was compelled to meet the demands of the public, and, for the efficient discharge of the duties, to increase the number of clerks, and augment other contingent expenses.

It appears that these charges were all properly presented, and appeared in the quarterly returns of said Morris to the Post Office Department. They were allowed at the time; but, on the settlement of the account for the fiscal year, these charges for expenditure, amounting to five thousand six hundred and eighty dollars, were stricken out and disallowed, simply on the ground that the department, under the laws which regulated its powers, the commission fund being exhausted, had no authority to pay them, and not on the ground that they were not necessary and proper in themselves. Mr. Morris was then compelled to pay over the said amount for which he had credited himself.

It appears that for that year Mr. Morris received only the sum of \$1,045 81 for his services.

It appears further, that the commission fund, out of which expenses were paid, was also reduced by the action of Mr. Morris' predecessor, who shortly before going out of office, removed the post office from the rotunda in the park to the Dutch church, at an increased cost, for rent, of \$4,400 per annum.

All these facts appear from the books and papers of the department, which also show the fact that between July 1, 1847, and May 19, 1849, Mr. Morris paid over to the department surplus commissions to the amount of more than thirty-three thousand dollars.

It appears further, to the full satisfaction of your committee, that Mr. Morris was subjected to a further expense out of his own funds by the establishment of a city despatch, under the orders of the Postmaster General, amounting to \$2,331 51.

Your committee are convinced that, in justice and equity, the legal representative of Mr. Morris should be paid the sum of five thousand six hundred and eighty dollars, the amount paid by said Morris for clerk hire, &c., for the year ending June 30, 1846. Also, the sum of \$954 19 to make up for the same year the amount of \$2,000, to which he was entitled by the act of 1825, and the sum of \$2,331 51 being the amount paid by said Morris for the city despatch office during the year ending June 30, 1846.

Your committee have reported a bill for this purpose, and recommend its passage.